Special package of AI for increasing revenue

*236. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the special package proposed by Air India and Indian Airlines for various destinations of the world to increase revenue in the coming months;

(b) if not, whether Government would consider to evolve such package meeting the challenges of foreign airlines like British Airways to increase the revenue; and

(c) if so, the period for which it would be valid?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) At present Air India and Indian Airlines do not have any special package for any foreign destination. However, Air India was offering a free ticket for a companion on a full paid ticket for travel out of India. Indian Airlines have incentive scheme called Desh Videsh. A person who qualifies under this scheme could also be eligible to buy a package in Singapore under certain conditions.

(b) and (c) Such challenges are constantly assessed to evolve appropriate strategies for countering these. This is a continuing process.

Public sector deficit

•237. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an International Credit Rating Agency has pointed Indian Government's inability to rein-in its huge public sector-deficit and warned that the country is heading towards a debt trap;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) the details of financial position of Government as on date; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to clear the debt trap?